

Appl. No. 09/936,627
Atty Docket No. 1085-031/JRD
Amendment Dated Dec. 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 1, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An educational tool, search tool or entertainment system comprising a plurality of identification means each associated with a respective item, the identification means comprising programmable machine-readable identification information, a reader for detecting and interrogating the identification means to identify the respective items associated therewith, the reader being operable to establish the order in which the multiple identification means are detected, and processing means operable to react in a predetermined manner to the identification of the detected item.
2. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the processing means includes software to cause the system to react in a predetermined manner to the order in which the multiple identification means are detected.
3. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the reader and/or the identification means includes a counter incrementable each time a particular identification means is interrogated by the reader to provide information concerning the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated by the reader.
4. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 3, wherein a response of the reader is varied in dependency upon the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated by the reader.
5. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held on a radio frequency transponder.
6. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 5, wherein the radio frequency transponder is a passive radio frequency transponder.
7. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 5, wherein the radio frequency transponder is an active radio frequency transponder.

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8. (currently amended) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held on an optically ~~(including infrared and ultraviolet)~~ interrogatable medium.

9. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held on a wired or contact transmitter.

10. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held in a sonic or ultrasonic transmitter.

11. (currently amended) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held in an RF ~~(including microwave and millimetrewave)~~ transceiver.

12. (currently amended) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein programming means are provided to ~~program programme~~ the machine-readable identification information for the identification means.

13. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the reader incorporates the processing means.

14. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the reader incorporates a data storage unit.

15. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 13, wherein the processing means includes software to cause the system to react in a different manner to the identification of respective items.

16. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the reader incorporates a user interface.

17. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 16, wherein the user interface includes a video display operable to display information based on the identity of a detected item.

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18. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 16, wherein the user interface includes an audio processing unit operable to announce information based on the identity of a detected item.

19. (currently amended) ~~A tool or system according to Claim 17, An educational tool, search tool or entertainment system comprising:~~

~~a plurality of identification means each associated with a respective item;~~

~~the identification means comprising:~~

~~programmable machine-readable identification information;~~

~~a reader for detecting and interrogating the identification means to identify the respective items associated therewith, the reader being operable to establish the order in which the multiple identification means are detected;~~

~~a user interface having a video display operable to display information based on the identity of a detected item; and,~~

~~processing means operable to react in a predetermined manner to the identification of the detected item;~~

~~wherein the reader is operable to: select an item that the reader has previously detected; announce or display information based on the identity of the selected item; and react in a predetermined manner in dependency upon whether the next item identified by the reader is the selected item.~~

20. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 16, wherein the user interface includes a data input device.

21. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein a personal computer is associated with the reader to provide the processing means and data storage in addition to or instead of the reader.

22. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the reader is a portable reader.

23. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the reader is a toy.

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24. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the or each identification means is provided in the form of a label attachable to an item.

25. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the or each identification means is locatable in an item.

26. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the reader includes a response activation unit which is operable upon detection of an item.

27. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the reader is operable to activate a response activation unit associated with the reader upon detection of an item.

28. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the reader is operable to count the number of items which are detectable by the reader and provide the count information to a user interface associated with the reader.

29. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 12, wherein the reader includes the programming means.

30. (original) A tool or system according to Claim 1, wherein the item is a person.

31. (original) A method of providing entertainment or educational information or searching comprising the steps of: providing a plurality of items with detectable identification means, the detectable identification means comprising programmable machine-readable identification information; detecting multiple items and establishing the order in which the multiple items are detected; interrogating the items and identifying the items from the identification means; and providing information in response to the identification of an item.

32. (original) A method according to Claim 31, further comprising the step of reacting in a predetermined manner to the order in which the multiple identification means are detected.

33. (original) A method according to Claim 31, further comprising the step of providing a counter incrementable each time a particular identification means is interrogated to provide information concerning the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated.

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34. (original) A method according to Claim 33, further comprising the step of varying the response in dependency upon the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated.

35. (original) A method according to Claim 31, wherein the step of providing information comprises providing a signal operable to control a mechanism.

36. (original) A method according to Claim 31, wherein a reader is operable to interrogate the item and identify the item from the identification means, the method comprising the further step of programming the reader to search for a specific item.

37. (currently amended) An educational tool, search tool or entertainment system comprising:

one or more identification means each associated with an item, the identification means comprising programmable machine-readable identification information;

a reader for detecting and interrogating the identification means to identify the item associated therewith, the reader and/or the identification means including a counter incrementable each time a particular identification means is interrogated by the reader to provide information concerning the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated by the reader; and,

processing means operable to react in a predetermined manner to the identification of the detected item, the processing means being operable to vary the response in dependency upon the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated.

38. (currently amended) A method of providing entertainment or educational information or searching comprising the steps of:

providing one or more items with detectable identification means the detectable identification means comprising programmable machine-readable identification information;

detecting an item;

interrogating the item and identifying the item from the identification means;

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providing a counter incrementable each time a particular identification means is interrogated to provide information concerning the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated; and,

providing information in response to the identification of the item, ~~and varying the response in dependency upon the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated.~~

39. (new) The tool or system according to Claim 8, wherein the optically interrogatable medium is an infrared medium.

40. (new) The tool or system according to Claim 8, wherein the optically interrogatable medium is an ultraviolet medium.

41. (new) The tool or system according to Claim 11, wherein the RF transceiver is a microwave transceiver.

42. (new) The tool or system according to Claim 11, wherein the RF transceiver is a millimetrewave transceiver.

43. (new) The tool or system according to Claim 19, wherein the user interface includes a data input device.

44. (new) The tool or system according to Claim 19, wherein a personal computer is associated with the reader to provide the processing means and data storage in addition to or instead of the reader.

45. (new) The tool or system according to Claim 19, wherein the reader is a portable reader.

46. (new) The tool or system according to Claim 19, wherein the reader is a toy.